

We claim:

1. An electronic information retrieval device, comprising:

a time source;

a communication interface capable of communicating with one or more external devices;

at least one I/O device;

a memory storing a plurality of time values and storing a corresponding plurality of time-based initialization default values; and

a processor communicating with said time source, said communication interface, said at least one I/O device, and said memory;

wherein said processor obtains a current time value from said time source upon initialization of said device, compares said current time value to said plurality of time values, retrieves a corresponding particular time-based initialization default value from said plurality of time-based initialization default values, and uses said particular time-based initialization default value in said initialization.

2. The electronic information retrieval device of claim 1, wherein a predetermined time value of said plurality of time values includes a time-of-day value.

3. The electronic information retrieval device of claim 1, wherein a predetermined time value of said plurality of time values includes a day-of-week value.

4. The electronic information retrieval device of claim 1, wherein a predetermined time value of said plurality of time values includes a week-of-year value.

5. The electronic information retrieval device of claim 1, wherein a predetermined time value of said plurality of time values includes a solar time value.

6. The electronic information retrieval device of claim 1, wherein said at least one I/O device comprises a user input device and wherein a user input triggers said initialization.

7. The electronic information retrieval device of claim 1, wherein said electronic information retrieval device further comprises a power supply and wherein said initialization occurs when said power supply first provides electrical power to said electronic device.

8. The electronic information retrieval device of claim 1, wherein said memory stores an initialization use pattern.

9. The electronic information retrieval device of claim 1, wherein said plurality of time values and said plurality of time-based initialization default values are user-settable.

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10. An electronic information retrieval device, comprising:

a time source;

a communication interface capable of communicating with one or more external devices;

at least one I/O device;

a memory storing a plurality of time values, storing a corresponding plurality of time-based initialization default values, and storing an initialization use pattern, with said plurality of time values and said plurality of time-based initialization default values learned from said initialization use pattern; and

a processor communicating with said time source, said communication interface, said at least one I/O device, and said memory;

wherein said processor obtains a current time value from said time source upon initialization of said device, compares said current time value to said plurality of time values, retrieves a corresponding particular time-based initialization default value from said plurality of time-based initialization default values, and uses said particular time-based initialization default value in said initialization.

11. The electronic information retrieval device of claim 10, wherein said at least one I/O device comprises a user input device and wherein a user input triggers said initialization.

12. The electronic information retrieval device of claim 10, wherein said electronic information retrieval device further comprises a power supply and wherein said initialization occurs when said power supply first provides electrical power to said electronic device.

13. The electronic information retrieval device of claim 10, wherein said plurality of time values and said plurality of time-based initialization default values are user-settable.

14. A computer-implemented default initialization method for an electronic information retrieval device, comprising the steps of:

- obtaining a current time value upon said initialization;
- comparing said current time value to a plurality of time values;
- retrieving a corresponding time-based initialization default value from a plurality of time-based initialization default values if said current time value matches a predetermined time value of said plurality of time values;
- using said corresponding time-based initialization default value in said initialization method as an information retrieval value.

15. The computer implemented default initialization method of claim 14, wherein said corresponding time-based initialization default value comprises a Uniform Resource Locator (URL).

16. The computer implemented default initialization method of claim 14, wherein said corresponding time-based initialization default value comprises a television channel.

17. The computer implemented default initialization method of claim 14, wherein said corresponding time-based initialization default value comprises a radio channel.

18. The computer implemented default initialization method of claim 14, wherein said plurality of time values and said plurality of time-based initialization default values are learned by said electronic information retrieval device from an initialization use pattern.

19. The computer implemented default initialization method of claim 14, wherein said initialization is an initialization of said electronic information retrieval device at a power on.

20. The computer implemented default initialization method of claim 14, wherein said initialization is an initialization of a software application running on said electronic information retrieval device.